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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) : James F. McGuckin Jr.  
Serial No. : 09/697,306  
Filed : October 27, 2000  
Title : SURGICAL APPARATUS AND METHOD  
Group Art Unit : 3761  
Examiner : G. Dawson

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 2327  
Arlington, VA 22202

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Reg. No. 35,508

Signature

Patrick J. Fay

**TRANSMITTAL**

S I R:

In response to the Office Action mailed October 23, 2002, transmitted herewith  
please find a Response Under Rule 116 for filing in the above-identified patent.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 13, 2003

By:

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